

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 918
By Walker (Blount)

A RESOLUTION to honor Dustin Tipton, 1998 valedictorian of
William Blount High School.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should honor those individuals who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment have achieved excellence in their academic careers; and

WHEREAS, Dustin Tipton is one such outstanding student who has distinguished himself as the valedictorian of the 1998 graduating class at William Blount High School, in Maryville; and

WHEREAS, through long hours of diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and untiring commitment of time and talent, Dustin has achieved extraordinary academic success, and has joined the ranks of the elite students of Tennessee and our nation by ranking first in a class of 305; and

WHEREAS, in his laudable high school career, he has earned an exceptional 4.0 grade point average; and

WHEREAS, Dustin made a 31 composite score on the ACT test; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded student, his long list of academic honors includes letters in English, Math, Science and Social Studies; Senior Honors in English, Latin, Math, Science and Tennis; being the Tennessee English Teacher Association representative; and successful participation in the TMTA Regional Math Contest (Algebra I third place and Algebra II second place) and the Roane State Academic Festival (College Bowl, Literature Entry and political cartoon, second place); and

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WHEREAS, a well-rounded student-athlete, Dustin has earned letters in golf and tennis, has participated in the Blount County Golf Tournament, the Blount County Tennis Tournament and the First Baptist Alcoa Church League; and has won the Presidential Physical Fitness Award; and

WHEREAS, his additional awards and honors include receiving a Bicentennial Scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; service as a Blount County School Board Representative; being a Boys' State alternative representative; being a member of the Football Homecoming Court; being chosen a member of Leadership Blount County; being voted Most Likely to Succeed; receiving a National Merit Special Scholarship, the Colonel S. H. Lockert Engineering Scholarship, the Tylenol Scholarship, and the Wal Mart Scholarship; earning magna cum laude status on the National Latin Exam; being the Ned McWherter Scholars Program alternate; being the William Blount Student of the Week and Student of the Month; and being listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and *Who's Who at William Blount High School*; and

WHEREAS, his display of intellectual prowess and inner drive surely bodes well for future success; and

WHEREAS, Dustin's noteworthy achievement is a great source of pride for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Tipton, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary extracurricular activities include being a member of the Executive Committee of the Beta Club, the Beginning Men's and Concert Choir Chorus groups, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Prom Club, FRIENDS-Arrive Alive, and Key Club; service as class vice-president; service as a member and president of the Junior Classical League, as a member and president of Mu Alpha Theta, a member and treasurer of the school Student Council, and as a member and campaigner for the local Young Life chapter; and

WHEREAS, Dustin has faithfully served God as an active lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Alcoa; he has been a member of the church's Youth Group and Youth Choir

since the ninth grade, has served admirably on the Youth Council and has been a Vacation Bible School worker; and

WHEREAS, a true representative of the notable heritage of the Volunteer State, he has generously contributed his time and has worked with extraordinary diligence and dedication for the Angel Tree program, the Canned Food Drive, the Chihowee Baptist Center, the Christmas Food Basket, Coats for the Cold, Kids' Voting, the Mission-Fuge, Toys for Tots, the United Way Intra-County Council and the Young Life Trash-A-Thon; and

WHEREAS, his job experience consists of mowing lawns since 1992; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to specially recognize one of Tennessee's best and brightest students; now, therefore,

WHEREAS, his dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor Dustin Tipton, the 1998 valedictorian of William Blount High School, on his impressive academic achievement, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.